



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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WINDOW ROCK MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING FUNDS FROM NAVAJO NATION

Used most of the money for gambling throughout the Southwest

PHOENIX – Ferdinand Notah, 52, of Window Rock, Ariz., was sentenced here to 21 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll. Notah pleaded guilty on January 27, 2005 to a charge of felony theft of government property. Notah illegally withdrew over \$177, 000 in federal grant money and used at least \$120,000 of it for unauthorized purposes including gambling at various tribal casinos in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, at casinos in Nevada and on personal items and expenses.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton, whose office has placed special emphasis on public corruption cases in the past year, said that "Taking federal funding meant for the good of the Navajo community and using it for personal gain is inexcusable."

From December 2000, to April 2003, Notah served as the Executive Director for the Four Corners Enterprise Community Corporation (4CEC), a non-profit organization organized according to the laws of the Navajo Nation whose purpose is to obtain and distribute grants from federal government agencies for economic development projects on the Navajo Reservation. Between July 2001 and September 2002, Notah, as Executive Director for 4CEC, withdrew \$177,540.77 in grant money from 4CEC accounts.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution was handled by John J. Tuchi and John R. Lopez, IV, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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